EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as

provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Andy Gabriel on 1/15/2010.

3.   Please make the following changes:

i)   Replace claim 1 with the following:

1.   A method for planning and scheduling tasks within a plurality of requests

for change within a change window in a computing system comprising the steps

of:

        deciding whether or not a request for change should be done with respect

to maximizing a profit value expressed as a value of performing the plurality of

requests for change minus a value of associated costs, wherein a request for

change comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal and location-specific

dependencies;

        for each request for change to be done, assigning individual tasks within

each request for change to acceptable servers;

for each request for change to be done, assigning a start time to said

individual tasks;

wherein the set of tasks comprises hardware changes and/or software

changes;

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which a

request for change is to be done;

wherein precedence constraints among tasks within a request for change

are enforced;

wherein each task of a request for change that is performed is assigned to

a single acceptable server; and

wherein no acceptable server can work on more than one task at any

time.

ii)   Replace claim 12 with the following:

12.   A system for planning and scheduling tasks within a plurality of requests

for change within a change window in a computing system comprising:

a processor;

an arrangement for deciding whether or not a request for change should

be done with respect to maximizing a profit value expressed as a value of

performing the plurality of requests for change minus a value of associated costs,

wherein a request for change comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal

and location-specific dependencies;

an arrangement for assigning individual tasks to acceptable servers for

each request for change to be done; and

an arrangement for assigning a start time to said individual tasks for each

request for change to be done;

wherein the set of tasks comprises hardware changes and/or software

changes;

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which a

request for change is to be done;

wherein precedence constraints among tasks within a request for change

are enforced;

wherein each task of a request for change that is performed is assigned to

a single acceptable server; and

wherein no acceptable server can work on more than one task at any

time.

iii)   Replace claim 23 with the following:

23.   A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a

program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for

planning and scheduling tasks within a plurality of requests for change within a

change window in a computing system comprising the steps of:

deciding whether or not a request for change should be done with respect

to maximizing a profit value expressed as a value of performing the plurality of

requests for change minus a value of associated costs, wherein a request for

change comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal and location-specific

dependencies;

for each request for change to be done, assigning individual tasks within

each request for change to acceptable servers;

for each request for change to be done, assigning a start time to said

individual tasks;

wherein the set of tasks comprises hardware changes and/or software

changes;

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which a

request for change is to be done;

wherein precedence constraints among tasks within a request for change

are enforced;

wherein each task of a request for change that is performed is assigned to

a single acceptable server; and

wherein no acceptable server can work on more than one task at any

time.

iv)   Replace claim 24 with the following:

24.   The program storage device according to claim 23, wherein:

start-to-finish constraints between tasks of a request for change are

enforced;

finish-to-finish constraints between tasks of a request for change are enforced;

colocation task/server assignment constraints are enforced for all requests for change;

exlocation task/server assignment constraints are enforced for all requests for change;

resource capacity constraints are enforced on each acceptable server executing one or more tasks for one or more requests for change;

requests for change with a deadline that falls within the change window must be performed;

~~each task of a request for change that is performed is assigned to a single acceptable server;~~

~~no acceptable server can work on more than one task at any time; and~~

all tasks of all requests for change that are performed must be performed during the change window.

v)   Replace claim 25 with the following:

24.   The method according to claim 1, wherein:

start-to-finish constraints between tasks of a request for change are enforced;

finish-to-finish constraints between tasks of a request for change are enforced;

colocation task/server assignment constraints are enforced for all requests

for change;

exlocation task/server assignment constraints are enforced for all requests

for change;

resource capacity constraints are enforced on each acceptable server

executing one or more tasks for one or more requests for change;

requests for change with a deadline that falls within the change window

must be performed;

~~each task of a request for change that is performed is assigned to a single~~

~~acceptable server;~~

~~no acceptable server can work on more than one task at any time; and~~

all tasks of all requests for change that are performed must be performed

during the change window.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to MengYao Zhe whose telephone number is 571-272-

6946. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday, 10:00 - 8:00

EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached at 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Mengyao Zhe/

/Thomas Lee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2115